

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of an Office Action dated January 13, 2005. In this response, Applicants have rewritten claims 11 and 18 in independent form. In addition, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 3-10, 15-17, 19 and 26-27 without prejudice or disclaimer in order to permit allowable subject matter to issue without further delay. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuing applications.

Applicants note that entry of the foregoing amendments after issuance of a final rejection is proper since these amendments cancel claims and comply with the PTO's indication that claims 11-14, 18, 20 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Following entry of these amendments, claims 11-14, 18, 20-25 and 28 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

Formal Drawings

During a review of their file, Applicants have noted that the PTO has not yet acknowledged acceptance of the formal drawings submitted on November 25, 2002. Applicants respectfully request that the PTO acknowledge acceptance of the drawings in its next communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claims 1, 3-10, 15-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,841,360 to Binder (hereafter "Binder") in view of U.S. Patent 5,615,344 to Corder (hereafter "Corder"). In addition, on page 3 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Binder in view of Corder and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,225,769 to Brenner et al. (hereafter "Brenner").

While Applicants do not acquiesce in the PTO's rejections, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 3-10, 15-17, 19 and 26-27 without prejudice or disclaimer in order to permit

allowable subject matter to issue without further delay. In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that the outstanding §103 rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 5/13/05

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.